

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3272

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: ERITREAN ELDERS MEET IN ADDIS ABABA

1. ON FEBRUARY 15 RADIO ETHIOPIA BROADCAST A STATEMENT THAT, AT PMAC'S SUGGESTION, THE ABUN (BISHOP) PHILIPPOS HAS INVITED ERITREAN ELDERS AND NORTHERN NOTABLES RESIDENT IN ADDIS ABABA AND ITS AREA TO MEET WITH HIM IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 19 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AND SECURITY OF ERITREANS AND NORTHERNERS HERE.

2. THAT MEETING CONVENED AS SCHEDULED. ACCORDING TO THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF FEBRUARY 20, OVER 400 "ETHIOPIAN ERITREANS" MET TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. THE MEETING, THE HERALD'S ARTICLE CONTINUED, WAS ATTENDED BY ERITREAN COMMUNITY LEADERS, BUSINESSMEN AND "SOME PROMINENT WOMEN." IT WAS CHAIRED BY ABUN PHILIPPOS (AN ERITREAN HIMSELF). OTHER RELIGIOUS

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LEADERS (IMAM OF THE ANWAR MOSQUE; CATHOLIC PRELATE) ALSO ATTENDED.

3. DURING THE MEETING SPEAKERS STRONGLY DENOUNCED AND CONDEMNED "FOREIGN-INSTIGATED ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND VIOLENCE PURSUED BY A HANDFUL OF DISSIDENTS ADVOCATING THE SEPARATION OF ERITREA FROM ETHIOPIA."

4. LATER THE MEETING ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION A 16-MAN COMMITTEE (NAMES IN SEPTEL). THIS COMMITTEE WAS CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF SELECTING COMPETENT PEOPLE TO CONTACT "DISSIDENT ELEMENTS IN THE BUSH" TO FOSTER SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM.

5. TWO PROMINENT ADDIS BUSINESSMEN, FIT. AMEDE LEMMA AND KEG. KADIR EBBA, WERE CHOSEN TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ITS ACTIVITIES.

6. COMMENTS AND AVAILABLE BIO ON COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN SEPTEL. WYMAN

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